

**ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT  
HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM  
HABITAT ENHANCEMENT AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PROPOSAL**

**PROJECT INFORMATION**

**Project Title:** Unit 4B Wildlife Water Tank Maintenance **Project No.** 07-110

**Region/GMU:** Region I / Unit 4B **HPC:** Winslow

**Project Type:** Maintenance (clean and bentonite) on Earthen Water Tanks

**Project Description:**

There are a series of earthen water tanks on the west side of Unit 4B along FS 170 that are in need of maintenance; mainly bentonite. These waters are critical for wildlife. Unfortunately they usually go dry in May and/ or June. I've had several requests from sportsmen over the last five years or so, asking that we work on these waters. This project has been identified in the Unit 4B District Habitat Management Plan. These waters have been identified for maintenance in the Long Tom Allotment Management Plan.

**Wildlife Species to Benefit:** Elk, Deer (Mule & Whitetail), Turkey and Bear

**Possible Funding Partners:**

**Implementation Schedule:**

**Beginning:** May or June 2007

**Completed:** May or June 2009

**NEPA Compliance: (if applicable)**

**Completed:** Yes X No     

**Projected Completion Date:**

**PROJECT FUNDING**

**SBG Funds Requested:** \$14,000.00 (seven tanks x \$2,000/each)

**Cost Share Funds:** \$Although none, keep in mind that the FS and Permittee have done all prior maintenance for these waters and wildlife have benefited for many years.

**Total Project Costs:** \$14,000.00

**PARTICIPANT INFORMATION**

**Applicant:** Bob Birkeland  
(please print)

**Telephone:** 928.369.0020

**Address:** 2878 E. White Mtn Blvd  
Pinetop, AZ 85935

**AGFD Contact and Phone No.**

**(If applicant is not AGFD personnel)**

**Coordinated with:** FS / Black Mesa Ranger District (Overgaard)

**Date:**

**Applicant's signature:**

**Date:**

**SEND COMPLETED APPLICATIONS TO:**

Game Branch  
2221 W. Greenway Rd.  
Phoenix, AZ 85023  
mdisney@azgfd.gov

**WAS PROJECT PRESENTED TO THE LOCAL HPC?** YES X NO     

This project has been discussed for about 5 years and the forest service asked that we wait until completion

(revised 7-02-2007)

of the Long Tom Allotment Management Plan (which is now completed).

**HAS PROJECT BEEN SUBMITTED IN PREVIOUS YEARS? IF SO WAS IT FUNDED?**

No.

**NEED STATEMENT/PROBLEM ANALYSIS:**

The western portion of Unit 4B has been identified as being deficient in perennial waters for wildlife (Region I District Habitat Management Plan). Water is a limiting factor in this area, especially in late spring and early summer. These water tanks catch good runoff, however are not holding water as good as they could/should. These waters usually go dry during the onset and duration of the elk calving season and turkey brooding periods. This time period is also when mule deer does are entering their final gestation period and water needs are high. Lack of available water forces these animals to leave this area.

This work needs to be done to improve habitat conditions. In my opinion as a 16 year Wildlife Manager, this is a good investment that will benefit wildlife. In addition, funding of this project will demonstrate to the forest service and permittee that AGFD is addressing wildlife habitat concerns (limiting factors) and willing to invest money in this area.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVES:**

The objective is to improve these water tanks so they provide perennial wildlife water. The benefits may include (understanding that moisture and timing of are equally important):

- 1) More dependable and enhanced water distribution for wildlife;
- 2) Higher survival of elk calves;
- 3) Higher survival of deer fawns;
- 4) Increased survivorship turkey poults;
- 5) Wider distribution of wildlife may minimize overgrazing/browsing of grasses and browse.

**PROJECT STRATEGIES:**

The tanks would be cleaned (deepened), sealed with bentonite, and all water delivery systems (drainages) would be corrected to provide maximum efficiency during precipitation periods.

**PROJECT LOCATION:**

Game Management Unit 4B / Apache Sitgreaves National Forest – Black Mesa Ranger District / North of Forest Lakes and East of Chevelon Canyon (see attached map).

**LAND OWNERSHIP AT PROJECT SITE (Please state specifically if PRIVATE PROPERTY and provide landowner's name):**

Apache Sitgreaves National Forest – Black Mesa Ranger District – Overgaard, AZ

**IF PRIVATE PROPERTY, IS THERE A STEWARDSHIP AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE LANDOWNER AND THE DEPARTMENT? Not Applicable**

**HABITAT DESCRIPTION:**

Ponderosa Pine / Pine and Gambel Oak Woodlands / Ponderosa Pine – Alligator Juniper Woodlands

**ITEMIZED USE OF FUNDS:**

The funds would be distributed to the contractor, who would handle all costs associated with the contract (equipment, labor, fuel, and bentonite). Estimated costs to clean seven earthen tanks would be \$2,000 per water; or about \$14,000 total.

**LIST COOPERATORS AND DESCRIBE POTENTIAL PARTICIPATION:**

The Apache Sitgreaves National Forest will assist with monitoring, to ensure all standards are being met.

**PROJECT MONITORING PLAN:**

Region I Wildlife Managers (Evan Lautzenheiser and Bob Birkeland) will monitor these tanks on a monthly basis. Monitoring will include making sure the tanks are catching and holding water, as well as gathering data on game species (changes in recruitment and patterns of use).

**PROJECT MAINTENANCE:**

No additional maintenance will be necessary other than monitoring as described above.

**PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT TO BE FILED BY:**

Bob Birkeland, Wildlife Manager Supervisor, Region I-Pinetop

**WATER DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS (see attached worksheet):** Not Applicable

**TREE SHEARING (AGRA-AXE, PUSH) PROJECTS (see attached worksheet):** Not Applicable

